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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/676,813	09/30/2003	Ross A. Biro	GOOGP010	3075
23689	7590	07/24/2007		
Jung-hua Kuo Attorney At Law PO Box 3275 Los Altos, CA 94024			EXAMINER LEON, EDWIN A	
			ART UNIT 2833	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/24/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/676,813

**Applicant(s)**

BIRO ET AL.

**Examiner**

Edwin A. León

**Art Unit**

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9/30/03 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The limitations containing the term "approximately" are indefinite and confusing. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Quin (U.S. Patent No. 4,500,796). With regard to Claims 1 and 10, Quin discloses (in Figs. 1-4 and 13) a power distribution system (1), comprising: a plurality of power connectors (23); and a plurality of power distribution terminals (21), each terminal is connected to a group of at least one of the connectors, the terminals being selectively

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*divisible* into a first set of grouping combinations and a second set of grouping combinations, each grouping combination within each set of grouping combinations corresponds to approximately the same number of power connectors, the terminals being configured to be connected to power supply circuits (inside 15) in accordance with the selected set of grouping combinations. The method limitations are deemed inherent and are rejected as shown above.

The limitations "for a computing system" and "configured to carry electrical power to electronics components of the computing system" has been given little patentable weight since it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex. parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-9 and 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quin (U.S. Patent No. 4,500,796). Quin discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the number of power connectors corresponding to each grouping

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combination within each set of grouping combinations differing by at most one, each group of the power connectors includes at least approximately  $1/12$  of the total number of power connectors, each group of the power connectors includes at most approximately  $1/4$  of the total number of power connectors, each group of the power connectors is selected from approximately  $1/12$ ,  $1/6$  and  $1/4$  of the total number of power connectors, each set of grouping combinations is selected from 2 grouping combinations, 3 grouping combinations and 4 grouping combinations, the first set of grouping combinations includes 2 grouping combinations, each grouping combination includes approximately  $1/2$  of the total number of power connectors and the second set of grouping combinations includes 3 grouping combinations, each grouping combination includes approximately  $1/3$  of the total number of power connectors, the power distribution terminals include 6 terminals, each of 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately  $1/4$  of the power connectors, each of another 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately  $1/6$  of the power connectors, and each of yet another 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately  $1/12$  of the power connectors and the power distribution terminals include 8 terminals, each of 4 of the terminals being connected to approximately  $1/6$  of the power connectors and each of another 4 of the terminals being connected to approximately  $1/12$  of the power connectors.

Still, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the number of power connectors corresponding to each grouping combination within each set of grouping combinations differing by at most one, each group of the power connectors includes at least approximately  $1/12$  of the total

number of power connectors, each group of the power connectors includes at most approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the total number of power connectors, each group of the power connectors is selected from approximately  $\frac{1}{12}$ ,  $\frac{1}{6}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the total number of power connectors, each set of grouping combinations is selected from 2 grouping combinations, 3 grouping combinations and 4 grouping combinations, the first set of grouping combinations includes 2 grouping combinations, each grouping combination includes approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the total number of power connectors and the second set of grouping combinations includes 3 grouping combinations, each grouping combination includes approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total number of power connectors, the power distribution terminals include 6 terminals, each of 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the power connectors, each of another 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the power connectors, and each of yet another 2 of the terminals being connected to approximately  $\frac{1}{12}$  of the power connectors and the power distribution terminals include 8 terminals, each of 4 of the terminals being connected to approximately  $\frac{1}{6}$  of the power connectors and each of another 4 of the terminals being connected to approximately  $\frac{1}{12}$  of the power connectors in order to balance the loads (Quin, Column 3, Lines 25-29), to meet design and environmental requirements and since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617, F. 2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). The method limitations are deemed inherent and are rejected as shown above.

***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ziff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,399,371) and Jonsson (U.S. Patent No. 4,146,287) disclose connectors similar to Applicant's claimed invention.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Edwin A. Leon/  
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